

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A part capable of being retained in a guide for retaining a plurality of parts in such a manner as to stack the parts in a gravitational direction, and supplying the parts to a predetermined position, comprising:

a plurality of abutment portions which come into abutment with an upper-side part in the guide and support the upper-side part; and

a plurality of receiving portions with which a plurality of abutment portions provided on a lower-side part in the guide are brought into abutment,

the abutment portions and the corresponding receiving portions being disposed on straight lines parallel with a part arranging direction,

a center of gravity of the part being disposed inside a region surrounded by the plurality of abutment portions,

lengths between abutment locations at which the respective abutment portions come into abutment with an upper-side part and receiving locations at which the receiving portions corresponding to the respective abutment portions come into abutment with a lower-side part being substantially the same for any of the abutment portions.

2. A part capable of being retained in a guide for

retaining a plurality of parts in such a manner as to stack the parts in a gravitational direction, and supplying the parts to a predetermined position, comprising:

a first abutment portion which first comes into contact with a succeeding part inserted into the guide from above in an inclined attitude;

a second abutment portion which comes into abutment with the succeeding part when a gravitational-center-side of the succeeding part falls to move downward about the first abutment portion and which supports the succeeding part in an orderly arranged state; and

a first receiving portion and a second receiving portion with which a plurality of abutment portions provided on a lower-side part placed within the guide in an orderly arranged state come into abutment.

3. A part according to claim 2, wherein the first abutment portion and the first receiving portion as well as the second abutment portion and the second receiving portion are respectively disposed on straight lines parallel to a part arranging direction.

4. A part according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising an overlap portion to overlap the lower-side part in a direction perpendicular to the part arranging

direction.

5. A part according to claim 1, further comprising a sliding portion for sliding contact with another part, in a region different from any of the abutment locations and the receiving locations.

6. A part according to claim 2, further comprising a sliding portion for sliding contact with another part, in a region different from any of the abutment portions and the receiving portions.

7. A part according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the part is a bearing member having a sliding portion for rotatably supporting an electrophotographic photosensitive member.

8. A part according to claim 5 or 6, wherein the part is an end member having a sliding portion for rotatably supporting a developing roller.

9. A part according to claim 8, wherein the end member has a sliding portion for sliding contact with a gear which transmits driving from a main body to a developer stirring member.

10. A part supplying method of retaining a plurality

of parts in the state of stacking the parts in a guide in the gravitational direction, and supplying the plurality of parts to a predetermined position, includes;

a part inserting step of inserting a part into the guide from above in an attitude having a predetermined range of inclination with respect to an orderly arranged attitude;

a gravitational-direction positioning step of bringing the inserted part into abutment with a first abutment portion provided on a preceding part, and positioning the part in the gravitational direction;

an inclination correcting step of correcting an inclination of the inserted part to arrange the inserted part in a column, by allowing a center-of-gravity side of the inserted part to fall while moving downward about the first abutment portion, and bringing the center-of-gravity side into abutment with a second abutment portion provided on the preceding part; and

an arranged-parts supplying step of supplying the arranged parts to a predetermined position in the same attitude.